ABSTRACT

A method of treating a particulate material comprising particles of an alkaline earth metal carbonate includes the step of exposing the particulate material to a treatment atmosphere containing a surface treatment agent comprising one or more fatty acids which reacts with and coats the particles of the particulate material, wherein the treatment atmosphere is substantially water free and maintained at a temperature which is above the melting point of the surface treatment agent and a least 120 °C, preferably 125 °C or more, and wherein in the treatment atmosphere the concentration of the surface treatment agent and the residence time of the particulate material are such as to provide a chemisorbed coating of the surface treatment agent on at least 75%, preferably at least 90%, of the surface area of the particulate material and the amount of physisorbed or unreacted surface treatment agent contained on the particulate material immediately after leaving the treatment atmosphere is not greater than about 0.5%, preferably 0.4% or less, by weight based upon the dry weight of the particulate material.